

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NATO 04954

SECDEF FOR ASD(C3I), ASD(ISA)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, ETEL, MARR
SUBJECT: INTEROPERABILITY OF TACTICAL AREA COMMUNICATIONS

REF: (A) NATO 4155 DTG 261803Z MAY 77; (B) STATE 122939
DATED 27 MAY 77; (C) STATE 127834 DTG 022311Z JUNE 77; (D)
STATE 126125 DTG 012016Z JUNE 77

SUMMARY: AT THEIR MEETING OF 7 JUN 77, THE NATIONAL ARMA-
MENTS DIRECTORS REPRESENTATIVES (NADREPS) AGAIN DISCUSSED
THE SUBJECT ABOVE IN TERMS OF SECDEF BROWN'S INTERVENTION
AT THE MAY DPC MINISTERIAL. AFTER THE US REP PROVIDED
FURTHER INFORMATION PER GUIDANCE (REFS B AND D), ITALIAN
AND BELGIAN NADREPS VOICED OPINIONS THAT THEIR NATIONS
WERE TOO FAR COMMITTED TO CHANGE THEIR PROGRAMS NOW, AND
EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT THE TRI-SERVICE GROUP ON COMMUNICA-
TIONS AND ELECTRONICS EQUIPMENT (TSGCEE) WAS A PROPER
FORUM TO DISCUSS THE US INITIATIVE. CHAIRMAN (LABERGE)
PROMISED TO PRESENT A PAPER TO THE NADREPS WITH HIS PROPO-
SITION OF AN APPROACH TO EXAMINE THE US PROPOSAL AND RE-
QUESTED THE US TO PROVIDE FURTHER DETAILS AT THE NEXT MEET-
ING. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE BY 17 JUNE.
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END SUMMARY.

1. CHAIRMAN LABERGE OPENED THE DISCUSSION BY REMINDING THE
NADREPS OF THE INTERVENTION MADE BY THE US SECDEF AT THE
DPC MINISTERIAL, AND THE BELGIAN REP'S INTERVENTION AT THE
LAST NADREP MEETING (REF A). HE THEN ASKED THE US
REP (HARVILL) TO PROVIDE FURTHER EXPLANATION.

2. THE US REP SUMMARIZED THE SITUATION, DRAWING ON THE GUIDANCE PROVIDED IN REFS B AND C AS DIRECTED BY REF D.

3. LABERGE SUMMARIZED BY STATING HE UNDERSTOOD THE US WAS WILLING TO STOP ITS TRI-TAC PROGRAM AND ADOPT A SYSTEM BASED ON EUROCOM STANDARDS. HE EXPRESSED A RELUCTANCE TO PLACE THE ISSUE IN FRONT OF THE TSGCEE SINCE A HIGH LEVEL OF POLITICAL INTEREST IS INVOLVED, ESPECIALLY IN THE MAJOR PRODUCING NATIONS. HE OFFERED TO TABLE A PAPER AT THE NEXT MEETING WHICH WOULD OUTLINE HIS RECOMMENDED APPROACH.

4. FYI: LABERGE BELIEVES THE CRUX OF THE MATTER LIES WITH THE FOUR MAJOR NATIONS THAT ARE CURRENTLY COMMITTED TO LARGE PROGRAMS: GERMANY, FRANCE, THE UK, AND THE US. HE BELIEVES THAT ACCEPTANCE OF THE SECDEF'S PROPOSAL WILL BECOME LESS LIKELY WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME AS NATIONS INCREASE INVESTMENT IN THEIR OWN PROGRAMS, AND FEARS THAT TOO MUCH TIME WILL EXPIRE BEFORE THE TSGCEE COULD FORM A CONSENSUS. HE FAVORS AN ATTEMPT TO GET TO THE MAIN ISSUES QUICKLY AND AT A HIGH LEVEL BY MEANS OF A 4-POWER CONFERENCE OF THE SENIOR GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS MANAGERS (EQUIVALENT TO ASD(C3I) DINNEEN). HE BELIEVES IF THEY CAN REACH AN AGREEMENT THE TSGCEE COULD THEN FOLLOW THROUGH QUICKLY IN NATO CHANNELS. END FYI.

5. THE BELGIAN (QUANIER), NETHERLANDS (SOETENS), AND NORWEGIAN (VEDELD) REPS EXPRESSED THEIR VIEWS THAT SINCE

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NATIONAL PERSONNEL ON AC/225(PANEL VIII) AND ITS SUBPANEL 1, AND ON THE AC/297 WORKING GROUP 1, WERE UNABLE TO RESOLVE THIS INTEROPERABILITY PROBLEM, AND SINCE THE TSGCEE WOULD INVOLVE MANY OF THESE SAME NATIONAL EXPERTS, THEY HAD DOUBTS THAT THESE ISSUES COULD NOW BE RESOLVED.

6. THE BELGIAN REP WAS QUITE VOCAL AFTER HEARING THE US STATEMENT, SAYING THAT ALTHOUGH THE US POLICY HAD NOW CHANGED AND SEEMED MORE FLEXIBLE (HE NOW BELIEVED THE US MIGHT BE WILLING TO BACK OFF ON TRI-TAC), HE FELT THE US PROPOSAL WAS TOO LATE AND MADE NO SENSE SINCE FRANCE AND BELGIUM WERE ALREADY ENTERING PRODUCTION WITH THEIR SYSTEM, AS WAS GERMANY. THE ITALIAN REP (CAMPANA) THEN STATED HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT AGREE TO ANY PROPOSALS DIFFERING WITH THE AD HOC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS, ADDING THAT ITALY'S CATRIN SYSTEM (WHICH MEETS EUROCOM STANDARDS) WAS WELL-ADVANCED AND ITALY COULD NOT AFFORD TO WASTE TIME AND MONEY TO MODIFY IT.

7. LABERGE SUGGESTED THAT FOR THE NEXT MEETING HE WOULD PREPARE A PAPER OUTLINING HIS IDEAS FOR TREATING THE US PROPOSAL. THE NETHERLANDS REP REQUESTED THAT THE US PROVIDE MORE DETAILS ON THEIR SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR THE NEXT MEETING (SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 20).

8. WE WILL INCLUDE OUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS BY SEPTTEL WHEN COMMENTING ON REF B.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE BY 17 JUNE 1977.
STREATOR

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